



RECEIVED

NOV 18 2004

Technology Center 2600

REMARKS

Claims 23-38 and 40-53 are pending in the present patent application. According to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2004, (i) claims 23-27, 29-36, 38, 40-41, 44 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b); (ii) claims 48-53 are allowed; and (iii) claims 28, 37, 42-43, 45 and 47 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Although the Examiner indicates that claims 50 and 52 are allowed, they each depend from rejected base claims. As such, Applicant has amended claims 50 and 52 to include all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.


In addition, Applicant has canceled claims 23-38 and 40-47. Applicant has rewritten claims 28, 37, 42-43, 45 and 47 in independent form as new claims 54-59 that include all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. As a result, pending claims 48-59 are allowable.

If there are any additional matters that may be resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (312)-913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP

Date: 11/12/04

By: 
Joseph A. Herndon
Reg. No. 50,469